

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In the 1940s, the Austrian economist Joseph Schumpeter coined the expression “creative destruction” to describe the deliberate dismantling of established processes to make way for improved methods of production. He was, of course, talking about innovation and the need to challenge – and overthrow when needed – assumptions about how things are to free up resources and energy in service of the new idea.

I’ve been thinking about Schumpeter a good deal lately because HTAi’s 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting is all about innovation – innovation in HTA and how that can lead to transformational change in healthcare systems around the world. I should declare my own bias here; innovation is not about marginal gains in productivity, it is about a step-change in performance. Henry Ford’s assembly line is a classic example, and the internet is a more recent one. In both cases, the previous order or way of doing things was not simply rearranged or made a little bit better – it was swept aside completely. The point is that innovation is rewarded, and less efficient or effective ways are punished. A hard lesson, and an important one.

HTAi aspires to be unique in the HTA landscape. We are a neutral organization with members from virtually every conceivable stakeholder segment. And our interests cover the entire lifecycle of HTA. This creates a wonderful platform from which to consider innovation. The speakers, panelists, symposia leaders and other *agents provocateurs* at our Virtual Annual Meeting each have important stories to share about how they have brought innovation to bear on HTA, and how HTA, in turn, can drive innovation in the broader healthcare system. While the specifics of each story understandably vary, there are some common denominators that are worthy of mention.

Perhaps the most important thing is to ask the right question – this frames the problem (or opportunity) and can either open up or close down the flow of creativity. There’s a reason why Einstein famously observed that if he had one hour to solve a life-threatening problem, he would spend the first 55 minutes determining the proper question to ask, and five minutes thinking about solutions.

The other striking thing about the stories you'll hear from the innovators at our Annual Meeting is the way in which they have leveraged knowledge, imagination and attitude to achieve breakthroughs in process and outcome. Equally, they have kept radar with respect to resources (money, time, people), habitat (where the work is done) and culture (how employees feel). Collectively, these are essential elements of innovation that paint a picture of how you can foster innovation in HTA and healthcare in your organization.

I look forward to joining you at the HTAi 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting to explore these ideas together.

Very best regards,

Rob Abbott

rabbott@htai.org



Notice of the 2021 Virtual Annual General Meeting

The Virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Members will take place on June 18, 2021, at 12:00 UTC. The meeting notice has been sent to all Member by email. During the AGM, the following items will be brought forward for discussion:

- Approval of [minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting](#)
- President's Report;
- Executive Director's Report;
- Treasure's Report
 - Review of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending on December 31, 2020; (this statement will become available at a later date, and the Members will be notified by email)
 - Appointment of Auditor;
- [Special Resolution #1 Bylaw Revisions](#) to repeal Bylaw and replace with [New Bylaws](#)
- Announcement of 2021 Board of Directors Election Results;
- Announcement of the 2022 Annual Meeting Location.

If you did not receive an email, please [register here](#).

If you would like to raise any other business items for discussion, please email your requests advance to info@htai.org.

Board of Directors Election

The Board of Directors and Nominating Committee are pleased to announce that the election to fill positions on the Board of Directors has concluded. Thanks to all our members who casted their votes.

Election results will be announced on social media and our website after the Virtual Annual General Meeting – stay tuned!



Schedule at a Glance

The 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting schedule is now available. The Annual Meeting will include up to 14+ hours of content broadcasted June 19 – 23, providing delegates with plenty of opportunities to access live and engaging content regardless of location or time zone. The meeting will include plenary sessions and keynote speakers each day, as well as live panel discussions, social events, workshops, and on-demand poster and oral presentations.

[View the schedule at a glance.](#)

Workshops

Our 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting is only a matter of weeks away, which means it is now time to register for our **complimentary** workshops!

The HTAi 2021 Annual Meeting workshops are scheduled for June 19 - 20, and feature half and full-day options on both days. Half-day workshops are 3 hours, and full-day workshops are 6 hours, running from 08:00 -15:00 or 17:00 – 00:00 (UTC). With a range of exciting topics available, there is sure to be something to spark your interest from beginner to advanced.

New to HTA? Check out **HTA 101 – An Introduction to Health Technology Assessment**, a half-day session held on June 19 at 21:00 UTC.

[Check out the full list of workshop descriptions and schedule](#)

Keynote & Plenaries

HTAi 2021 Annual Meeting Keynote & Plenary sessions will take place daily from June 21 – 23, and will focus on a wide range of subjects to foster learning, inspiration, wonder, and provoke conversations that matter. Each plenary presentation will feature a discussion session immediately following to ensure optimal experience and information-sharing for attendees.

[Learn more about our daily plenary sessions](#)

Get to know the speakers

This year's Annual Meeting features an exciting lineup of keynote and guest speakers ready to discuss the latest and most intriguing topics in HTA today. A keynote speaker is scheduled for each day of the meeting, including two speakers on June 21.

[Read about our keynote and guest speakers](#)

Panels

Panels are scheduled across 10 time slots June 21 - 23 at various session times running from 05:00 – 22:00 (UTC).

A maximum of 6 panels are scheduled in parallel, providing opportunities to hear from and engage with peers and colleagues discussing the significant issues being faced in HTA related fields today.

Do you want to explore a specific HTA area of interest? Once you enter the Annual Meeting platform, the content will be searchable according to your area of interest. Get a head start and [read about the panel topics now](#).

Networking

Connect with fellow delegates!

Networking is alive and well at the HTAi Virtual Annual Meeting. Drop into the Platform Orientation session on Saturday, June 19, for a guided tour of the platform to learn how to make the most of the virtual experience, including tips on breakout rooms and delegate interaction. Make sure to create a profile and tell us a bit about yourself! Don't

forget to include your social media handles and share our hashtag #2021VirtualIAM so colleagues can make connections and collaborate.

On Monday, June 21, join HTAi Interest Groups for themed networking sessions centred around key topic-related questions or concepts.

[Secure these times in your calendar](#)

Social Events

HTAi Annual Meetings are more than just a place to review high-caliber, engaging content; it's a place to network, share information, and connect with HTA stakeholders around the world. The 2021 Annual Meeting has an abundance of opportunities to relax and catch up with friends and colleagues!

Make sure to join the Welcome Reception on Sunday, June 20, to experience fantastic entertainment! Delegates can expect a plethora of fun activities, including a magical demonstration from [Duncan William](#) and performances by well-known UK duo [The Ayoub Sisters!](#)

On Tuesday, June 22, join us for the first [HTAi Catch up and Connect](#), a social event to remember, featuring a virtual mixology class! The class, offered by the experts at [Mixology Events from TT Liquor](#), is a chance for you to get to know your fellow delegates and show your creative side, all from the comfort of your home.

Each participant has the option to purchase a kit containing all cocktail and mocktail supplies needed, or you can use the ingredient list provided and purchase supplies at your local shop. The kits ship internationally, but time is of the essence: customs processes vary and may require up to two weeks to clear. If you would like to purchase a kit, please ensure you leave enough time for the package to be delivered to your location. The [HTAi 2021 social events page](#) has all of the details you need, including order forms, shipping availability and times, and ingredient lists.

Registration

[Annual Meeting](#) and [Workshop](#) Registration is still open. Secure your seat now!

Thank you to our Sponsors

The HTAi would like to thank our 2021 Annual Meeting sponsors for their continued support and contributions.

[Learn more about our sponsors](#)

[Check out our sponsored Symposia](#)

Do you have any questions regarding the Annual Meeting? If so, please email annualmeeting@htai.org.

POLICY FORUM



Latin America Policy Forum

Call for Applications - Scientific Secretary

The current Scientific Secretary's term of office is ending in 2021, and we are seeking to appoint a Scientific Secretary to the Latin America Policy Forum! Applicants must be highly skilled individuals or organizations with experience with program management, scientific content (including translation from Spanish to English) and meeting coordination.

Closing date for applications: June 30, 2021

[Read more about the application and selection process](#)

If you have any questions regarding the call for applications, please email policyforum@htai.org.

A reminder that the 2021 Latin America Policy Forum has been postponed and will now take place October 25 – 27, 2021.

Asia Policy Forum

We're pleased to announce the 2021 Asia Policy Forum topic "HTA in Asia Post-COVID-19", scheduled to occur virtually November 29, December 1 and December 3.

As the 2021 Asia Policy Forum was originally scheduled as an in-person meeting to take place in Tokyo, the first virtual session will include an overview of the Japanese Healthcare Reforms, and the current role of HTA in Japan. The focus of the remaining two sessions of the Forum will be the role HTA can play in a post-pandemic Asia. This will include discussions around the effect of the pandemic on health systems and how HTA needs to adapt to the post-COVID-19 world to support post-pandemic health systems.

Global Policy Forum

The Global Policy Forum will be hosting a Business and Topic scoping webinar on June 8, 2021.

This 2.5-hour webinar will include an overview of the 2022 topic as well as the opportunity for Global Policy Forum members to engage in small-group breakout session discussions to refine the topic scope further ahead of the 2022 HTAi Global Policy Forum in the Hague, the Netherlands (January 23-26, 2022). A recording of this meeting will be available to members shortly after the session.

Call for Nominations

The Global Policy Forum has recently opened a call for nominations for the HTAi Global Policy Forum Organizing Committee to fill a not-for-profit vacancy.

Global Policy Forum Organizing Committee members are required to commit to continued and diligent support of the content and development of Global Policy Forum meetings through input on the topic, agenda, the research, framing and reporting of the pre-meeting background paper, the identification of speakers, and several outputs of the meeting. Input will be provided by email and through approximately ten 90-minute meetings (by teleconference) per year ahead of the HTAi Global Policy Forum meeting in late January.

The term of office for member organization representatives is 3 years and can be extended up to a further 3 years only (maximum 6-year term).

The deadline for nominations is **June 30, 2021**. Nominations can be submitted by email to policyforum@htai.org.

The Global Policy Forum Chair will review nominations with the support of the HTAi Secretariat.

Please see the Policy Forum Series Organizing Committees' [terms of reference](#) for more information.

If you have any questions regarding Policy Forums, please email Ali Powers at apowers@htai.org.

INTEREST GROUPS



Patients at the Heart of Healthcare

This year's Annual Meeting is embracing the essential role patients play in HTA.

More than 40 patients and their representatives will attend the HTAi 2021 Annual Meeting at no charge thanks to HTAi Participation Grants and the PCIG PASS.

Bringing a wealth of expertise and patient perspectives, grants and passes have been given to patient advocates, representatives of patient groups and consumer representatives of HTA committees who applied from the UK, USA, Brazil, Japan, Canada, Australia, Hungary, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

We're grateful to sponsorship from Edwards Lifesciences, Janssen and Novartis, which enabled the HTAi Patient and Citizen Involvement Interest Group's Finance Secretary, Todd Stephenson (Director of Patient Engagement and Experience, Janssen), to set up the PASS to provide an additional avenue to patients who want to attend Annual Meeting.

All patients and their representatives are invited to attend a briefing ahead of the Annual Meeting. They can also have a virtual buddy from PCIG during the event and take part in evaluations to help PCIG improve patients' experiences at Annual Meeting in future years.

This opportunity is for any patient or patient representative attending Annual Meeting – even if they did not receive an HTAi Participation Grant or PCIG PASS.

Aside from patient involvement in panels and the PCIG workshop, Neil Bertelsen is bringing a patient's perspective to the event with his keynote address 'A Tale of Two Pandemics'.

In it, Neil will reflect on the transformation of patient advocacy and healthcare decision-making during the HIV pandemic and compare it to the situation today.

"Many lessons have been learned but some have been forgotten," Neil said. "We can only build the sustainable healthcare of the future by partnering with our diverse patient communities. Let's not repeat the mistakes of the past."

While PCIG members know him best as their former Chair (2016-2019), Neil has spent the past 25 years bringing the patient voice into the heart of health care. He is a board member of Patient Focused Medicines Development and a member of HTAi's Business Development Committee.

Virtually Learning and Sharing

In May, the HTAi Patient and Citizen Involvement in HTA Interest Group (PCIG) launched the PCIG Exchange.

The initiative to encourage virtual learning and sharing began with presentations by Dr. Ana Toledo Chávarri from Spain's Servicio de Evaluación del Servicio Canario de la Salud (SESCS) and Dr. Sukyeong Kim and Sou Hyun Lee from South Korea's National Evidence-based Healthcare Collaborating Agency (NECA).

The idea arose after PCIG was unable to hold its annual face-to-face meeting last October and instead held a virtual meeting where discussion followed presentations on patient and citizen involvement and its impact in HTA in the Czech Republic and the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review in the United States.

“The experience was seen as really valuable,” said PCIG Chair Ann Single. “Learning, sharing and supporting HTA bodies to develop their patient and citizen involvement has been central to the aims of PCIG since we were formed in 2005.”

The invitation-only meeting for PCIG’s most active members operates under the [Chatham House Rule](#) to encourage open discussion and is accompanied by a ‘bio book’ containing participants areas of work and contact details to break down some of the barriers of a virtual gathering and encouraging relationship building.

If you have any questions regarding Interest Groups or would like to submit a webinar topic, please email Sydney Ruller at sruller@htai.org.

We'd love to hear from you!

Are you an active member with something you would like to add to the monthly HTAi Readers Digest? If so, please send your request to nsuwinski@htai.org.